

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 10315 292025Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----093363 301446Z /41

R 291215Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7665

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: VIOLENCE AGAINST UNARMED CIVILIANS

REF: STATE 164007

1. THE KILLINGS AT ELIMA SHOCKED WESTERN SENSIBILITIES
IN A WAY THE KILLINGS IN GUTU DID NOT; THEREFORE, WE DO
NOT THINK EITHER A FORMAL DEMARCHE OR AN INFORMAL
REPRESENTATION ON THE INCREASED VIOLENCE IN RHODESIA
WOULD BE HELPFUL AT THIS TIME. AS MUCH AS WE MIGHT
WISH OTHERWISE, ALL THE RHODESIA PARTIES WOULD PROBABLY
MISINTERPRET OUR MESSAGE.

2. IF, HOWEVER, THERE ARE OVERRIDING REASONS WHY IT IS
IMPORTANT TO MAKE THE POINT TO BOTH SIDES OF THE
CONFLICT, THEN WE WOULD RECOMMEND THE POINT BE MADE IN
THE CONTEXT OF THE GRAHAM/LOW MISSION. IN THEIR CON-
TACTS WITH ALL THE PARTIES THEY SHOULD STRESS THAT THE
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VIOLENCE OVER THE LAST TWO MONTHS SIGNALS A BREAKDOWN
OF RHODESIAN SOCIETY AND UNDERSCORES HOW LITTLE TIME
REMAINS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. WE SHOULD ALSO
INCLUDE THIS GENERAL POINT IN HIGH LEVEL CORRESPONDENCE
WITH THE FRONT LINE AND IN CONTINUED PUBLIC STATEMENTS
OF CONDEMNATION.

3. THE FCO DOES NOT PLAN ANY SPECIFIC ACTION RELATED TO THE INCREASE OF VIOLENCE BEYOND OWEN'S PUBLIC DEPLORING OF RECENT CIVILIAN DEATHS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK. SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY JOHN DAVIES, HOWEVER, IS PLANNING A TRIP TO RHODESIA AND THE FRONT LINE IN ORDER TO JUDGE THE SITUATION AND INVESTIGATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCREASE IN VIOLENCE. BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, ALLEGATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 jun 1978
Decapton Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON10315
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780270-1045
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978068/aaaaagke.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1105c68c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 164007
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2429609
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: VIOLENCE AGAINST UNARMED CIVILIANS
TAGS: PDEV, RH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1105c68c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014